

SAMPLE

DATE

Dear Parent or Guardian:

These materials are provided to assist you in understanding Maine's Personalized Alternate Assessment Portfolio (PAAP) process. The PAAP is the alternate assessment component of the Comprehensive Assessment System and is intended for a very few students who, even with accommodations, cannot participate in the State Maine Educational Assessment (MEA). Participation in statewide assessment is required by both state and federal law and ensures that your child is assessed on the same learning standards as all students in Maine. These standards are called the Maine Learning Results.

The PAAP is not a paper and pencil test, but consists of a yearlong collection of evidence of your child's performance on the Learning Results. The standards measured in the PAAP may include knowledge and skills in the areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Technology and Social Studies. You, along with members of your child's planning team, will make decisions about which standards will be most appropriate for your child and how best for your child to demonstrate what he/she knows. Generally, teachers collect evidence for student portfolios such as: student work, teacher observations, charts showing progress, checklists, pictures, videotapes, etc. Your child's PAAP will contain some of these types of evidence.

Your child's portfolio, or collection of evidence, will be scored by teachers who are carefully trained to score them reliably. Using PAAP Rubrics, the portfolios are scored according to several dimensions that are related to higher student achievement. If you would like to see a sample of the PAAP rubrics, please contact your child's teacher.

Starting in 2003, reports on the results of student performance on the PAAP will be available. You will receive a report specific to your child's scores. School and District reports will also reflect the scores of all its students, regardless of how they participated in the Maine Educational Assessment.

If you have questions or would like clarification on the Personalized Alternate Assessment Portfolio process, please contact _____ at _____.

Sincerely,
